

Docket No. UF-164D2
Application Serial No. 09/827,117

Claim 2 (amended)

2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said autoimmune disorder is symptomized by the destruction of patients' cells by autoantibodies.

Claim 3 (amended):

3. The method, according to claim 2, wherein said anti-idiotype antibodies are immunoreactive with idiosyncratic determinants present or antibodies associated with systemic lupus erythematosus.

Please cancel claims 4 and 5, without prejudice.

Please cancel claims 8-17, without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the subject application. Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled as redundant in view of the amendments to claim 1. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any subject matter affected by the foregoing amendments/cancellation in co-pending or later filed continuation or divisional applications. Claims 8-17 have been cancelled as pertaining to non-elected subject matter. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-3, 6, and 7 will be before the Examiner for consideration.

The rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph has been addressed by the foregoing amendments. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Silvestris et al. Applicant asserts that the amendments above obviate this rejection. It is stated that Silvestris teaches a treatment of SLE with anti-idiotypic antibodies which bind the 8.12 and F4 idiotype. In response, it is noted that Silvestris neither discloses or suggests a method utilizing a composition that includes anti-idiotypic antibodies specific to the 16/6 idiotype. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the claimed composition comprises antibodies which immunoreact